



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Insurance Building, PO Box 43113 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3113 • (360) 902-0555

September 23, 2003

TO: Lee Huntsman, Interim President
University of Washington

FROM: Marty Brown, Director

SUBJECT: University of Washington Incident Report #03-27 Does Not Merit Review

Pursuant to RCW 43.41.370 and the Guidelines for Reporting Incidents, the University of Washington (UW) reported a chemical explosion in the Aerospace and Engineering Research Building to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) on January 30, 2003.

The accident occurred inside a fume hood in a lab on central campus when a bottle of acryloyl chloride exploded for unknown reasons. The UW's hazardous materials spill response protocol calls for alerting the fire department. Seattle firefighters responded and evacuated the building. Six UW employees and one firefighter were exposed to chemicals, treated at Harborview Medical Center and released. None were seriously injured.

RCW 43.41.370(1) requires the Director of OFM to appoint a loss prevention review team when the death of a person, serious injury to a person, or other substantial loss is alleged or suspected to be caused at least in part by the actions of a state agency unless the Director, in his discretion, determines that the incident "does not merit review". I have determined that this incident does not merit review because there was no death, serious injury or substantial loss.

This decision will be posted on the OFM website. If you have any questions about the criteria or its application to this incident, please contact either Susan Hettinger at (360) 902-9815 or Gary Robinson at (360) 902-0528.

cc: Rebecca Bullock, Assistant Director, UW Office of Risk Management